Despite the great external conflict in their relationship, Capulet does desire Juliet’s best interests– however he displays his love and desire to be respected in the way that society operates. This interaction between these vital characters displays the controlling nature of Capulet and Juliet’s desire to be independent. Society’s role in the lives of women is illustrated through Capulet’s insistence and Juliet’s inability to stand up for herself. Their dynamic relationship is altered by Juliet’s commitment and love for Romeo, a new male authority in her life. We also see evidence of contrast in Capulet’s behaviour within the boundaries of family, and when he is discussing marital propositions with Paris. In this scene, we see for the first time Capulet interacting with Juliet, showing the complexity of their relationship.

The society acted as an influence to the relationship change between Juliet and her father. During the Elizabethan Period, the time Shakespeare wrote Romeo and Juliet, there was a Patriarchal Society. In Act 3 Scene 5, Capulet told Juliet that she had to marry Paris but Juliet refuses; Capulet thought that he is doing a favor for Juliet by marrying her to Paris so when Juliet refuses, he acts very irritated. “Hang thee, young baggage, disobedient wretch! / I tell thee what: get thee to church o’ Thursday, / or never after look me in the face.”(3.5.166-16 In a Patriarchal Society, men were the leading figures, and made all of the decisions; especially for a father, they were supposed to have control over the women in the family. Although Capulet was very annoyed at Juliet for not wanting to marry Paris, he still wanted the best for her, but because of the Patriarchal Society women were like ‘properties’ to men so Capulet did not take no as an answer.

Before Juliet had married Romeo, she was abiding by her father’s rules. She never spoke out of turn, or disrespected her parents. Yet when Juliet found love in Romeo, she no longer found any meaning to her life besides being with him, and thus, disregarding her parents. This drastic change in perspective from Juliet catches Capulet off guard when Juliet refuses to marry Paris, sparking intense emotions. Juliet pleaded with her father to listen and understand as she explained her refusal to the proposal. This situation demonstrates the feelings of independence Juliet is now experiencing due to her marriage to Romeo. She feels she no longer “belongs” to her father, but instead, her love. Juliet tells her father that "I will not marry yet, and when i do i swear it shall be Romeo, whom you know i hate". (3.5.126/127) Capulet becomes infuriated and confused by her insistence against the marriage. Juliet taunts her father by saying she will marry Romeo, the son of his great enemy. This is slightly ironic, because she is already married to him. Through this she is misleading her father, and avoiding honesty. At this point, their relationship had dramatically changed because Capulet had lost a sense of who his daughter really is. He now feels a lack of respect in their relationship, and thus, besides it is no longer relevant. During the Elizabethan period all women had to completely obey the men, so this was not only humiliating, but also destructive to their relationship. The scene ends with Juliet feeling constrained and her father feeling disrespected. Our perception of Capulet’s character is now drastically changed.

Capulet acts differently within and outside his direct family. In act three scene four, when Capulet discusses his daughter’s potential marriage with Paris and his attitude toward Paris is kind and his attitude towards Juliet’s marriage seems liberal. In addition, later when Capulet questions Paris about the day of the marriage and he is very cordial to Paris. In the next scene, Lady Capulet informs Juliet about her dad’s decision, “Marry, my child, early next Thursday morn/ The gallant, young, and noble gentleman, The county Paris, at Saint Peter’s Church/ Shall happily make thee there a joyful bride.”(3.5. 117~120) Because of the fact that Juliet is married to Romeo and her intense love for him, Juliet wishes do decline the offer. Capulet becomes very upset with Juliet, an inside member of the family, and exclaims, “Hang thee, young baggage, disobedient wretch!” (3.5. 166) This displays the contrast between how Capulet interacts with inside members of the family and people outside the family.

In this scene, we are able to see the effects of surrounding and internal emotions in a respected authoritarian relationship. There is much misunderstanding and dishonesty between Juliet and Capulet, which is another reason for the downfall of their relationship. Whether it her secret marriage or society’s implications, a time for rationalization is much needed. If Juliet felt comfortable to be honest with her father, though society constrains this, she could have explained better why she opposed the marriage to Paris. This applies to our own lives and we can learn from their relationship that, by rationalizing out thoughts and being honest, we can save our own troubled relationships.